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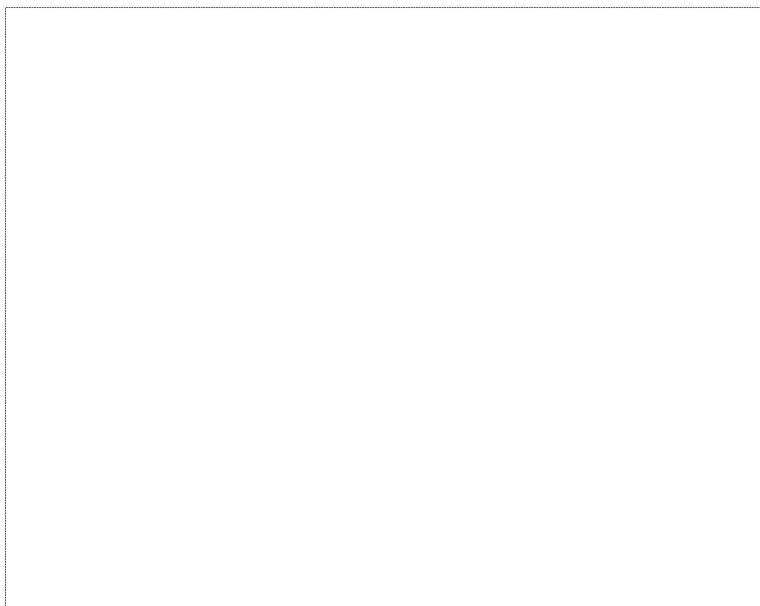
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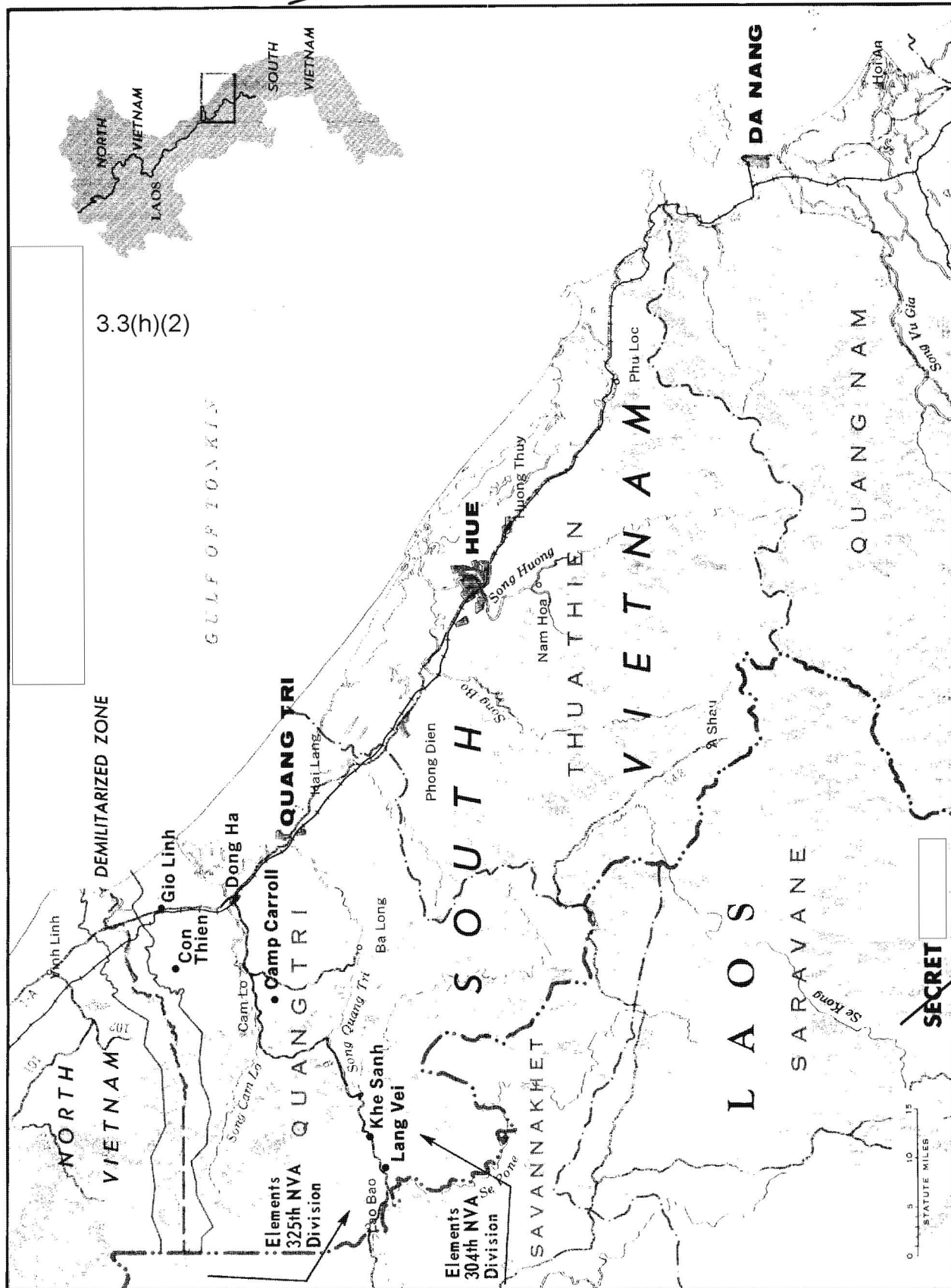


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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Hanoi has rejected President Johnson's reciprocity formula for a cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam.

In Hanoi's first public reaction to the State of the Union message, the official publication Nhan Dan on 20 and 21 January referred to the reciprocity concept as an "insolent" condition and dismissed it as a "stubborn" repetition of the San Antonio statement.

Nhan Dan described the State of the Union message as an attempt to cope with world and US public opinion which is "demanding" the US to end the bombing unconditionally. It also called on the President to carry out "concrete actions" to implement his earlier statement that the US was willing to go "more than half way" to seek an honorable peace.

South Vietnam: Sharp fighting broke out near both ends of the Demilitarized Zone over the weekend amid continuing indications that the North Vietnamese are preparing for a major push against Khe Sanh.

In the Khe Sanh area, the North Vietnamese launched their first direct attacks against US positions since their build-up got underway late last year. The Communists launched ground assaults against the US Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei just west of Khe Sanh and also against US Marine defensive positions on Hill 861 to the north. The Khe Sanh base itself was hit by mortar and artillery fire.

Twelve South Vietnamese and 45 enemy troops were reported killed at Lang Vei. US Marine casualties on Hill 861 and around Khe Sanh were 16 killed and 68 wounded; 88 North Vietnamese were killed in the encounters. In what may be related diversionary attacks, the Communists harassed US positions in

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central Quang Tri Province and near Gio Linh near the eastern end of the Demilitarized Zone.

It is still too early to determine whether these actions represent the beginning of the anticipated North Vietnamese offensive in the northern I Corps area but [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] regiments of the North Vietnamese 304th and 325th Divisions are continuing to close in on Khe Sanh. There are now at least four regiments within an eight mile radius of the base.

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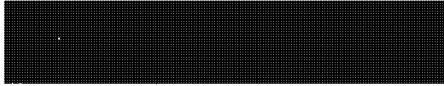
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